

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original): A toner comprising a crystalline compound, a binding resin and a coloring agent,

wherein a differential heat quantity curve measured by a differential scanning calorimeter has a clear endothermic peak at 50 to 100°C in a first temperature rising process, and in a second temperature rising process, a peak area of the endothermic peak is reduced by 1/3 or less with respect to the peak area of the endothermic peak in the first temperature rising process.

Claim 2 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein the crystalline compound is crystalline polyester.

Claim 3 (original): The toner of claim 2, wherein the binding resin comprises a monomer having a carboxyl group, and an acid value of the crystalline polyester is from 1 to 8 mg/KOH.

Claim 4 (original): The toner of claim 2, wherein a peak value of the endothermic peak is 5J/g or more in the first temperature rising process, and is less than 0.7J/g in the second temperature rising process.

Claim 5 (original): The toner of claim 2, wherein a melt viscosity, which is a melt viscosity at a melting point + 20°C, of the crystalline polyester is 300 dPa·s or less.

Claim 6 (original): The toner of claim 2, wherein a peak temperature of endothermic peak of which the peak area is reduced in the second temperature rising process is from 55 to 70°C in the first temperature rising process.

Claim 7 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein a peak temperature in the first temperature rising process of the endothermic peak of which the peak area is reduced in the second temperature rising process is from 55 to 70°C.

Claim 8 (original): The toner of claim 7, wherein the peak temperature of the endothermic peak in the first temperature rising process is from 58 to 65°C.

Claim 9 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner is obtained by associating fine particles formed by polymerizing a monomer composition comprising the crystalline compound and a polymerizable monomer in an aqueous phase.

Claim 10 (original): The toner of claim 1, comprising a chromatic color coloring agent.

Claim 11 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein a peak value of the endothermic peak in the first temperature rising process is 2 J/g or more.

Claim 12 (original): The toner of claim 11, wherein the peak value of the endothermic peak is 5 J/g or more.

Claim 13 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein a peak value of the endothermic peak in the first temperature rising process becomes less than 0.7 J/g in the second temperature rising process.

Claim 14 (original): The toner of claim 13, wherein the peak value of the endothermic peak becomes less than 0.5 J/g in the second temperature rising process.

Claim 15 (original): The toner of claim 1, wherein number average molecular weight of the crystalline compound is from 1500 to 15,000.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) An image forming method comprising:
developing a latent image on a photoreceptor with the toner as defined in claim 1 to form a toner image; and
fixing the toner image onto an image support by heat.

Claim 17 (first occurrence, original)

The image forming method of claim 16, comprising:

~~developing latent images with toners including a black~~
toner and a chromatic toner to form toner images, wherein
at least one of the toners are the toner as defined in
claim 1; and

forming a color image by overlapping toner images.

Claim 17 (second occurrence, canceled)

Claim 18 (new): The image forming method of claim 16, comprising:

developing latent images with toners including a black toner and a chromatic toner to
form toner images, wherein at least one of the toners are the toner as defined in claim 1;
and

forming a color image by overlapping toner images.